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Central Intelligence Agency
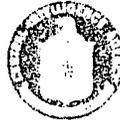
Washington, D.C. 20505

4 January 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

DDI/OCR/LA

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DDI/OCR/NEA

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Suggestion for Managing Agency-wide Technology Application

1. Your observation that the Agency needs a mechanism for managing the application of new information technologies across directorates couldn't be more timely. Senior Agency managers, including myself, are currently trying to outline the options and forge a solution on how best to manage information systems technology, particularly the application of new technologies to the Agency's business. As you pointed out, the Information Systems Board is the logical group to turn to, and it already is involved in coordinating the introduction of new technology, and facilitating its application across directorates. Some other mechanism, however, might be more appropriate for screening systems development proposals and overseeing the commitment of resources to such projects.

2. Since we are currently debating these issues, I cannot give you the specifics of what a proposed solution might be. But we do need all the fresh ideas we can get, so I have asked

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the Board's Executive Secretary, to talk with you further about your experiences, perspective and suggestions. She will contact you within a few days.

3. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughtful suggestion with us.

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21 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Casey
                 Director of Central Intelligence

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FROM:

                 DDI/OCR/LA

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                 DDI/OCR/NEA

SUBJECT: Use of a Committee of Wise Men for
                 Agency Technology Applications

    1. We were prompted to write by your Memorandum To All Employees of 28
November 1984 and by the spirit behind the search for excellence. As a result
of our experience on a group working to develop an automated data storage and
retrieval file, we became aware of the need for more cross-directorate and
intra-directorate coordination in developing technological projects and
systems. Individual offices may not make the most efficient use of their
resources, time, and efforts, because of the size and complexity of our
organization, ignorance, bureaucratic turf problems, or little concern for the
effectiveness of the whole.

    2. We would suggest that the Agency needs to use an impartial committee
of wise men for technology applications, such as the Information Systems
Board, to examine Agency-wide application of projects already in existence or
under development. Specifically, the committee should be responsible for
educating Agency offices, making effective use of Agency manpower and
financial resources, screening recommendations for the development of systems,
playing a facilitator role in applying technological systems across more than
one office, and eliminating programmatic and project redundancy.

    3. We would be willing to discuss this suggestion in greater detail with
you or with an appropriate member of your staff.

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